

REMARKS

Claims 29-37, 39 and 41-46 are pending in this application. Claims 1-28, 38 and 40 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 29-35, 37, 39 and 41-46 have been amended.

The cancellation of claims 38 and 40 and the amendment of claims 29-35, 37, 39 and 41-46 have been made for the sole reason of advancing prosecution. Applicants, by canceling or amending any claims herein, make no admission as to the validity of any rejection made by the Examiner against any of these claims. Applicants reserve the right to reassert any of the claims canceled herein or the original claim scope of any claim amended herein, in a continuing application.

Claim 29 has been amended to recite "A method for determining one or more kinetic parameters of binding between a first binding member and a second binding member comprising: (a) simultaneously adsorbing the first binding member to a surface at a plurality of microspots; (b) simultaneously presenting the second binding member to the first binding member at each of the microspots, there being a plurality of combinations of first binding member surface density and second binding member concentration among the plurality of microspots; (c) simultaneously obtaining data indicative of a binding reaction between the first and second binding members at each of the plurality of microspots by a biosensor detection method; (d) simultaneously obtaining reference data from a plurality of interspots located at a surface between the at least two or more microspots; and (e) processing the data so as to obtain one or more kinetic parameters of binding between the first and second binding members; wherein the plurality of bindings carried out does not necessitate a regeneration step

and wherein in step (a) adsorbing the first binding member to a surface at a plurality of microspots comprises: (a) activating the surface in the microspot by presenting thereto a chemical activating substance by: (i) forming a first channel around a region containing the microspot; (ii) introducing a solution containing the activating substance into the channel; and (iii) removing excess activating solution from the channel; (b) adsorbing the first binding member to the microspot; and (c) deactivating the microspot.” Support for the amendment to claim 29 can be found throughout the specification and claims as originally filed. For example, please see page 4, lines 6-7, 24-25 and 29-30, page 5, lines 6-7, page 7, lines 3-5, page 8, lines 9-11 of the specification. Also, please see page 4, lines 15-17 and page 6, lines 18-20 of the specification.

Claim 37 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of now cancelled claims 38 and 40. Specifically, claim 37 has been amended to recite “A method for localizing a molecular species at each of two or more microspots on a surface, comprising: (a) activating the microspot surface, by: (i) forming a first channel around the region containing the microspot; (ii) introducing a solution containing an activating substance into the channel; and (iii) removing excess activating solution from the channel; (b) simultaneously adsorbing a molecular species to each of the two or more microspots by: (i) forming at least two further channels, each being perpendicular to the first channel; (ii) simultaneously introducing a solution containing the molecular species into the channel; and (c) optionally deactivating the microspot, wherein the molecular species localized on the two or more microspots may be the same in each of the microspots or different in each of the microspots, and wherein the molecular species may be adsorbed at identical or different surface densities to each of the microspots.”

Support for the amendment to claim 37 can be found throughout the specification and claims as originally filed.

Claim 41 has been amended to recite "The method according to claim 37 wherein at least one of the molecular species is a first binding member and the method further comprises: (a) forming one or more channels in a region containing the microspots; (b) for each one of the channels, introducing a second binding member; and (c) simultaneously obtaining data indicative of a binding reaction between the first and second binding members at each of the two or more microspots by a biosensor detection method." Support for the amendment to claim 41 can be found throughout the specification and claims as originally filed.

Claims 30-35, 39 and 43-46 have been amended to correct minor typographical errors. Specifically the letter "c" in the term "claim" is no longer capitalized. Additionally, claims 32, 44 and 45 have been amended to recite a comma prior to the phrase "a dissociation." Further, the phrase "any one of claims" has been deleted and replaced with the term "claim" in claims 42 and 46

No new matter has been added.

In view of the remarks set forth below, further and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

I. At page 2 of the Official Action, claims 33, 44 and 45 have been objected to for informalities.

The Examiner asserts that there should be a comma before the phrase “a dissociation” in each of claims 33, 44 and 45.

Applicants respectfully traverse this objection.

From the outset, Applicants respectfully note that the rejected claim 33 does not contain the phrase “a dissociation.” However, Applicants respectfully note that claim 32 does recite the phrase “a dissociation.” Therefore, it appears that the Examiner meant to object to claim 32 instead of claim 33. Claims 32, 44 and 45 have been amended to recite a comma before the phrase “a dissociation.” Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this objection.

II. At page 2 of the Official Action, claims 29, 30, 33, 36, 37, 38, 40, 41, 42 and 46 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over Malmqvist et al. (US Patent No. 6,200,814) in view of Newgard et al. (US Patent No. 6,110,707).

The Examiner asserts that Malmqvist et al. teaches all the elements of claims 29, 30, 33, 36, 37, 38, 40, 41, 42 and 46 except deactivating the microspot. However, the Examiner alleges that it would be obvious to utilize the teachings of Newgard et al. for the deactivating step.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 29, 30, 33, 36, 37, 38, 40, 41, 42 and 46 because a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic prongs must be met. First, as the U.S. Supreme Court very recently held in *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc. et al.*, Slip Opinion No. 04–1350, 550 U. S. _ (April 30, 2007), “a court must ask

whether the improvement is more than the predictable use of prior art elements according to their established functions. ...it [may] be necessary for a court to look to interrelated teachings of multiple patents; the effects of demands known to the design community or present in the marketplace; and the background knowledge possessed by a person having ordinary skill in the art, all in order to determine whether there was an apparent reason to combine the known elements in the fashion claimed by the patent at issue. ...it can be important to identify a reason that would have prompted a person of ordinary skill in the relevant field to combine the elements in the way the claimed new invention does... because inventions in most, if not all, instances rely upon building blocks long since uncovered, and claimed discoveries almost of necessity will be combinations of what, in some sense, is already known." (*KSR, supra*, slip opinion at 13-15.) Second, the proposed modification of the prior art must have had a reasonable expectation of success, determined from the vantage point of the skilled artisan at the time the invention was made. *Amgen Inc. v. Chugai Pharm. Co.*, 18 USPQ2d 1016, 1023 (Fed. Cir. 1991). Lastly, the prior art references must teach or suggest all the limitations of the claims. *In re Wilson*, 165 USPQ 494, 496 (C.C.P.A. 1970).

Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established because, whether taken alone or in combination, neither Malmqvist et al. or Newgard et al. teach or suggest each and every limitation of the presently pending claims as required by *In re Wilson*.

Independent claim 29 is directed to a method for determining one or more kinetic parameters of binding between a first binding member and a second binding member comprising: (a) simultaneously adsorbing the first binding member to a surface at a

plurality of microspots; (b) simultaneously presenting the second binding member to the first binding member at each of the microspots, there being a plurality of combinations of first binding member surface density and second binding member concentration among the plurality of microspots; (c) simultaneously obtaining data indicative of a binding reaction between the first and second binding members at each of the plurality of microspots by a biosensor detection method; (d) simultaneously obtaining reference data from a plurality of interspots located at a surface between the at least two or more microspots; and (e) processing the data so as to obtain one or more kinetic parameters of binding between the first and second binding members; wherein the plurality of bindings carried out does not necessitate a regeneration step and wherein in step (a) adsorbing the first binding member to a surface at a plurality of microspots comprises: (a) activating the surface in the microspot by presenting thereto a chemical activating substance by: (i) forming a first channel around a region containing the microspot; (ii) introducing a solution containing the activating substance into the channel; and (iii) removing excess activating solution from the channel; (b) adsorbing the first binding member to the microspot; and (c) deactivating the microspot.” Claims 30-36 and 43-45 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 29.

Independent claim 37 is directed to a method for localizing a molecular species at each of two or more microspots on a surface, comprising: (a) activating the microspot surface, by: (i) forming a first channel around the region containing the microspot; (ii) introducing a solution containing an activating substance into the channel; and (iii) removing excess activating solution from the channel; (b) simultaneously adsorbing a molecular species to each of the two or more microspots by: (i) forming at least two

further channels, each being perpendicular to the first channel; (ii) simultaneously introducing a solution containing the molecular species into the channel; and (c) optionally deactivating the microspot, wherein the molecular species localized on the two or more microspots may be the same in each of the microspots or different in each of the microspots, and wherein the molecular species may be adsorbed at identical or different surface densities to each of the microspots." Claims 39, 41, 42 and 46 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 37.

In contrast to the presently pending subject matter, Malmqvist et al. is directed to methods and devices for controlling a fluid flow over a sensing surface within a flow cell. The methods according to Malmqvist et al. employ laminar flow techniques to position a fluid flow over one or more discrete sensing areas on the sensing surface of the flow cell. See Malmqvist et al. at the abstract.

However, Malmqvist et al. do not teach or suggest "(a) simultaneously adsorbing the first binding member to a surface at a plurality of microspots; (b) simultaneously presenting the second binding member to the first binding member at each of the microspots, there being a plurality of combinations of first binding member surface density and second binding member concentration among the plurality of microspots; (c) simultaneously obtaining data indicative of a binding reaction between the first and second binding members at each of the plurality of microspots by a biosensor detection method; (d) simultaneously obtaining reference data from a plurality of interspots located at a surface between the at least two or more microspots," as recited in present claim 29. In addition, Applicants submit that Malmqvist et al. do not teach or suggest activating the microspot surface while simultaneously adsorbing a molecular species to

each of the two or more microspots, as recited in present claim 37. Further, Applicants submit that Malmqvist et al. do not teach or suggest the present deactivating step at all. Further, Malmqvist et al. do not teach or suggest a method that does not include a regeneration step. Accordingly, Malmqvist et al. fails to teach or suggest all the limitations of the presently pending subject matter.

Newgard et al. do not remedy the deficiencies of Malmqvist et al. Newgard et al. is directed to a method of engineering a mammalian cell comprising providing a starting cell, introducing into the starting cell an amylin-encoding gene operatively linked to a first promoter, and selecting a cell that exhibits increased amylin production as compared to the starting cell, where said method may further comprises introducing into the selected cell an insulin-encoding gene operatively linked to a second promoter.

Like Malmqvist et al., Newgard et al. do not teach or suggest “(a) simultaneously adsorbing the first binding member to a surface at a plurality of microspots; (b) simultaneously presenting the second binding member to the first binding member at each of the microspots, there being a plurality of combinations of first binding member surface density and second binding member concentration among the plurality of microspots; (c) simultaneously obtaining data indicative of a binding reaction between the first and second binding members at each of the plurality of microspots by a biosensor detection method; (d) simultaneously obtaining reference data from a plurality of interspots located at a surface between the at least two or more microspots,” as recited in present claim 29. In addition, Applicants submit that Newgard et al. do not teach or suggest activating the microspot surface while simultaneously adsorbing a molecular species to each of the two or more microspots, as recited in present claim 37.

Accordingly, whether taken alone or in combination, Malmqvist et al. and Newgard et al. fail to teach or suggest the presently pending claims.

Applicants submit that the subject matter is directed to methods for determining one or more kinetic parameters of binding between a first binding member and a second binding member, wherein selected processes of the bioassay are carried out ***simultaneously***.

Performing the bioassay steps in a simultaneous manner as presently claimed is a very rapid and efficient method, referred to in the specification as the "*One Shot Kinetics*" concept. Please see page 2, last paragraph and page 4, second paragraph of the present specification. This method enables detecting the reaction between a plurality of combinations of the first binding member surface density and the second binding member concentration with minimal number of experimental steps.

Further, as recited in the presently pending claims, the bioassay method does ***not necessitate a regeneration step***. As described in the present specification, the regeneration, namely the removing of the second binding member from the first binding member, may be damaging to the first binding member, and, in fact, may be impossible.

Applicants respectfully submit that the unique feature of the presently claimed "*One Shot Kinetics*" concept represents a major advantage over the cited art. Simultaneously obtaining reference data from a plurality of interspots located at the surface between the microspots is an improvement over the common approach such as that described by Malmqvist et al., for example, at column 4, lines 41-54, which utilizes only a part of the microspots i.e., those which do not contain a relevant binding member for obtaining the reference data.

In comparison with the method described in the cited art, collecting reference data from the interspots, as presently claimed, has two major advantages. One advantage is *more efficient use* of the surface area. According to the presently claimed subject matter, microspots may be used for measuring the bio-interaction; therefore, none are spent for referencing. Thus, more kinetic or thermodynamic data can be gained from each experiment. An additional advantage of the present subject matter over the cited art is that a "*local reference*," in which the reference data for each microspot is taken from its neighboring interspots, may be obtained.

In the contrast to the presently claimed subject matter, in the method utilized in the cited art, the reference measurement is performed in more distant locations. For example, a single microspot is used as a reference for several microspots located in the same channel. The use of the "*local reference*," as presently claimed, provides more reliable reference data since it takes into account local effects, including, for example: effects relating to temperature variations, local concentration changes, surface defects and others. Therefore, more accurate kinetic or thermodynamic data can be obtained by the presently claimed method.

In view of the remarks set forth herein, it is submitted that, whether taken alone or in combination, Malmqvist et al. and Newgard et al. do not render the presently pending claims obvious within the meaning of 35 USC § 103(a). Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

III. At page 6 of the Official Action, claims 31, 35 and 43 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Malmqvist et al. in view of Newgard et al., and further in view of US Patent No. 6,478,839.

The Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to combine the specific types of SPR according to US Patent No. 6,478,839 with the general use of SPR described in Malmqvist et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic prongs must be met. First, as the U.S. Supreme Court very recently held in *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc. et al.*, Slip Opinion No. 04–1350, 550 U. S. __ (April 30, 2007), “a court must ask whether the improvement is more than the predictable use of prior art elements according to their established functions. ...it [may] be necessary for a court to look to interrelated teachings of multiple patents; the effects of demands known to the design community or present in the marketplace; and the background knowledge possessed by a person having ordinary skill in the art, all in order to determine whether there was an apparent reason to combine the known elements in the fashion claimed by the patent at issue. ...it can be important to identify a reason that would have prompted a person of ordinary skill in the relevant field to combine the elements in the way the claimed new invention does... because inventions in most, if not all, instances rely upon building blocks long since uncovered, and claimed discoveries almost of necessity will be combinations of what, in some sense, is already known.” (*KSR, supra*, slip opinion at 13-15.) Second, the proposed modification of the prior art must have had a reasonable expectation of success, determined from the vantage point of the skilled artisan at the

time the invention was made. *Amgen Inc. v. Chugai Pharm. Co.*, 18 USPQ2d 1016, 1023 (Fed. Cir. 1991). Lastly, the prior art references must teach or suggest all the limitations of the claims. *In re Wilson*, 165 USPQ 494, 496 (C.C.P.A. 1970).

Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established because, whether taken alone or in combination, neither Malmqvist et al., Newgard et al. or Kansa et al. teach or suggest each and every limitation of the presently pending claims as required by *In re Wilson*.

From the outset, **Applicants note that US Patent No. 6,478,839 is not to Lennox et al., as indicated by the Examiner, but rather to Kansa et al.**

The presently claimed subject matter, Malmqvist et al., and Newgard et al. are discussed in detail in section II above with regard to the previous rejection. Please see the remarks above for a detailed discussion of each. As discussed above, whether taken alone or in combination, Malmqvist et al. and Newgard et al. do not teach each and every element of the present subject matter.

Kansa et al et al. do not remedy the deficiencies of Malmqvist et al. and Newgard et al. Kansa et al et al. is directed to a device for induction-heat melting treatment of metal-oxide-powders. See Kansa et al. at the abstract.

Like Malmqvist et al. and Newgard et al., Kansa et al. do not teach or suggest “(a) simultaneously adsorbing the first binding member to a surface at a plurality of microspots; (b) simultaneously presenting the second binding member to the first binding member at each of the microspots, there being a plurality of combinations of first binding member surface density and second binding member concentration among the plurality of microspots; (c) simultaneously obtaining data indicative of a binding

reaction between the first and second binding members at each of the plurality of microspots by a biosensor detection method; (d) simultaneously obtaining reference data from a plurality of interspots located at a surface between the at least two or more microspots,” as recited in present claim 29. In addition, Applicants submit that the combination of references do not teach or suggest activating the microspot surface while simultaneously adsorbing a molecular species to each of the two or more microspots, as recited in present claim 37. Accordingly, whether taken alone or in combination, Malmqvist et al., Newgard et al. and Kansa et al. fail to teach or suggest the presently pending claims.

In view of the remarks set forth herein, it is submitted that, whether taken alone or in combination, Malmqvist et al., Newgard et al. and Kansa et al. do not render the presently pending claims obvious within the meaning of 35 USC § 103(a). Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

IV. At page 6 of the Official Action, claims 32, 44 and 45 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Malmqvist et al. in view of Newgard et al., and further in view of Natesan et al. (US Publication No. 2002/0048792)

The Examiner asserts that one of ordinary skill in the art would combine Natesan et al. with Malmqvist et al. in view of Newgard et al. because while Malmqvist et al. allegedly describes the use of a flow cell for assay purposes, Natesan et al. allegedly describes specific types of assays to be performed.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic prongs must be met.

First, as the U.S. Supreme Court very recently held in *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc. et al.*, Slip Opinion No. 04–1350, 550 U. S. _ (April 30, 2007), “a court must ask whether the improvement is more than the predictable use of prior art elements according to their established functions. ...it [may] be necessary for a court to look to interrelated teachings of multiple patents; the effects of demands known to the design community or present in the marketplace; and the background knowledge possessed by a person having ordinary skill in the art, all in order to determine whether there was an apparent reason to combine the known elements in the fashion claimed by the patent at issue. ...it can be important to identify a reason that would have prompted a person of ordinary skill in the relevant field to combine the elements in the way the claimed new invention does... because inventions in most, if not all, instances rely upon building blocks long since uncovered, and claimed discoveries almost of necessity will be combinations of what, in some sense, is already known.” (*KSR, supra*, slip opinion at 13-15.) Second, the proposed modification of the prior art must have had a reasonable expectation of success, determined from the vantage point of the skilled artisan at the time the invention was made. *Amgen Inc. v. Chugai Pharm. Co.*, 18 USPQ2d 1016, 1023 (Fed. Cir. 1991). Lastly, the prior art references must teach or suggest all the limitations of the claims. *In re Wilson*, 165 USPQ 494, 496 (C.C.P.A. 1970).

Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established because, whether taken alone or in combination, neither Malmqvist et al., Newgard et al. or Natesan et al. teach or suggest each and every limitation of the presently pending claims as required by *In re Wilson*.

Natesan et al. do not remedy the deficiencies of Malmqvist et al. and Newgard et al. Natesan et al. is directed to a method for regulated production of a desired protein in cells, which comprises providing cells containing recombinant nucleic acids encoding at least one fusion protein which binds to a selected ligand, wherein the fusion protein comprises a ligand binding domain and a DNA binding domain.

In contrast to the presently claimed subject matter, like Malmqvist et al. and Newgard et al., Natesan et al. do not teach or suggest “(a) simultaneously adsorbing the first binding member to a surface at a plurality of microspots; (b) simultaneously presenting the second binding member to the first binding member at each of the microspots, there being a plurality of combinations of first binding member surface density and second binding member concentration among the plurality of microspots; (c) simultaneously obtaining data indicative of a binding reaction between the first and second binding members at each of the plurality of microspots by a biosensor detection method; (d) simultaneously obtaining reference data from a plurality of interspots located at a surface between the at least two or more microspots,” as recited in present claim 29. In addition, Applicants submit that the combination of references do not teach or suggest activating the microspot surface while simultaneously adsorbing a molecular species to each of the two or more microspots, as recited in present claim 37. Accordingly, whether taken alone or in combination, Malmqvist et al., Newgard et al. and Natesan et al. fail to teach or suggest the presently pending claims.

In view of the remarks set forth herein, it is submitted that, whether taken alone or in combination, Malmqvist et al., Newgard et al. and Natesan et al. do not render the presently pending claims obvious within the meaning of 35 USC § 103(a). Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

V. At page 7 of the Official Action, claims 34 and 39 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Malmqvist et al. in view of Newgard et al., and further in view of Siddigi et al. (US Patent No. 5,541,113)

The Examiner asserts that the use of an electric field to induce reactions in the Malmqvist et al. invention would have been obvious to the skilled artisan to reach the rejected claims 34 and 39 since Siddigi et al. discloses that an electric field induces certain chemical reactions (col. 1, lines 51-56).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic prongs must be met. First, as the U.S. Supreme Court very recently held in *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc. et al.*, Slip Opinion No. 04-1350, 550 U. S. __ (April 30, 2007), "a court must ask whether the improvement is more than the predictable use of prior art elements according to their established functions. ...it [may] be necessary for a court to look to interrelated teachings of multiple patents; the effects of demands known to the design community or present in the marketplace; and the background knowledge possessed by a person having ordinary skill in the art, all in order to determine whether there was an apparent reason to combine the known elements in the fashion claimed by the patent at issue. ...it can be important to identify a reason that would have prompted a person of

ordinary skill in the relevant field to combine the elements in the way the claimed new invention does... because inventions in most, if not all, instances rely upon building blocks long since uncovered, and claimed discoveries almost of necessity will be combinations of what, in some sense, is already known." (*KSR, supra*, slip opinion at 13-15.) Second, the proposed modification of the prior art must have had a reasonable expectation of success, determined from the vantage point of the skilled artisan at the time the invention was made. *Amgen Inc. v. Chugai Pharm. Co.*, 18 USPQ2d 1016, 1023 (Fed. Cir. 1991). Lastly, the prior art references must teach or suggest all the limitations of the claims. *In re Wilson*, 165 USPQ 494, 496 (C.C.P.A. 1970).

Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established because, whether taken alone or in combination, neither Malmqvist et al., Newgard et al. or Siddigi et al. teach or suggest each and every limitation of the presently pending claims as required by *In re Wilson*.

Siddigi et al. do not remedy the deficiencies of Malmqvist et al. and Newgard et al. Siddigi et al. is directed to a method for detecting analyte in an aqueous solution at a physiological pH, by reductive or oxidative electrochemical luminescence methodologies, which method proceeds by labeling the analyte with a transition metal complex, followed by inducing the transition metal label to luminescence by application of a suitable electrical potential to a solution containing the label and the analyte.

In contrast to the presently claimed subject matter, like Malmqvist et al. and Newgard et al., Siddigi et al. do not teach or suggest "(a) simultaneously adsorbing the first binding member to a surface at a plurality of microspots; (b) simultaneously presenting the second binding member to the first binding member at each of the

microspots, there being a plurality of combinations of first binding member surface density and second binding member concentration among the plurality of microspots; (c) simultaneously obtaining data indicative of a binding reaction between the first and second binding members at each of the plurality of microspots by a biosensor detection method; (d) simultaneously obtaining reference data from a plurality of interspots located at a surface between the at least two or more microspots," as recited in present claim 29. In addition, Applicants submit that the combination of references do not teach or suggest activating the microspot surface while simultaneously adsorbing a molecular species to each of the two or more microspots, as recited in present claim 37. Accordingly, whether taken alone or in combination, Malmqvist et al., Newgard et al. and Siddigi et al. fail to teach or suggest the presently pending claims.

In view of the remarks set forth herein, it is submitted that, whether taken alone or in combination, Malmqvist et al., Newgard et al. and Siddigi et al. do not render the presently pending claims obvious within the meaning of 35 USC § 103(a). Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

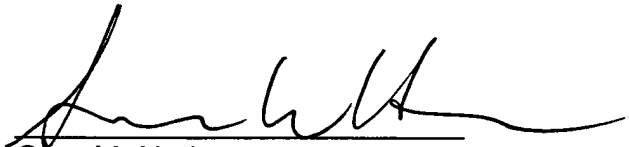
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of the application.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicants petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0112.

Respectfully submitted,

THE NATH LAW GROUP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary M. Nath', is written over a horizontal line.

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